

To: Ruhl, Christopher[Ruhl.Christopher@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]
Cc: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Germann, Sandy
Sent: Thur 9/3/2015 8:58:05 PM
Subject: FW: TIME SENSITIVE: Matt Brown Draft Responses

Chris, David,

Attached for your review are draft responses to questions from AP's Matt Brown. They would be used to prepare for an interview with Mathy tomorrow. We're running through HQ but wanted you all to look over, too. I'll stop by with hard copies but wanted to go ahead and get to you.

Thanks,

Sandy

From: Germann, Sandy
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 4:56 PM
To: EOC Public Information <EOC_Public_Information@epa.gov>
Cc: Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: TIME SENSITIVE: Matt Brown Draft Responses

Please see draft responses to Qs from Matt Brown/AP. These would be used for an interview w/ Mathy tomorrow. We've drafted the responses using info on the website and from the latest set of media responses that were sent around this morning.

Results of samples taken of both sediments and water have been steadily trending downward; is that expected to continue? Have levels reached pre-spill levels all around?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Given what's been learned so far, is a significant recurrence of contamination in the water still considered unlikely?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

In the EPA's view, is there any reason for irrigation systems along the path of the spill still to be shut down? Does the EPA foresee any future high-water events necessitating the closure of those systems (and/or drinking water intakes)?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Has further progress been made in a long-term solution for Gold King and adjacent mines? Any details on what is being considered beyond the retention ponds now in place would be appreciated.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

It's our understanding that 15 other mine investigations were put on hold to assess whether there were risks of another accident; do those remain on hold? If not, why not? If so, what is expectation on when that assessment will be complete.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Members of Congress have been asking for lots of different documents, ranging from internal communications and prior planning for this site, to communications relating to ongoing investigations and the long-term impacts of the spill. Some of that information already has been released. Are there other items that are being held back pending the investigation by IG, Interior? When are those expected to be released?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

**Do you expect to be addressing broader issue abandoned mines at the hearing?
Wondering if there are any opportunities seen there.**

Beyond abandoned mines, there have already been attempts to link this accident to other matters before the EPA, from the Clean Power Plan to the waters of the US rule; can you comment on whether there's any relation to those and the Gold King spill?

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Germann, Sandy <Germann.Sandy@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>; EOC Public Information <EOC_Public_Information@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: ?s on Gold King

Related to earlier message – we are handling here ..thanks ng

From: Brown, Matthew [<mailto:MBrown@ap.org>]
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 2:25 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy; Harrison, Melissa; Gray, David
Cc: Elliott, Dan
Subject: ?s on Gold King

Hi Nancy—Here's a sampling of ?s:

CC'd Dan Elliot with AP in Denver, who is also covering spill response.

Results of samples taken of both sediments and water have been steadily trending downward; is that expected to continue? Have levels reached pre-spill levels all around?

Given what's been learned so far, is a significant recurrence of contamination in the water

still considered unlikely?

In the EPA's view, is there any reason for irrigation systems along the path of the spill still to be shut down? Does the EPA foresee any future high-water events necessitating the closure of those systems (and/or drinking water intakes)?

Has further progress been made in a long-term solution for Gold King and adjacent mines? Any details on what is being considered beyond the retention ponds now in place would be appreciated.

It's our understanding that 15 other mine investigations were put on hold to assess whether there were risks of another accident; do those remain on hold? If not, why not? If so, what is expectation on when that assessment will be complete.

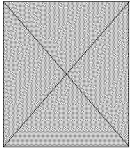
Members of Congress have been asking for lots of different documents, ranging from internal communications and prior planning for this site, to communications relating to ongoing investigations and the long-term impacts of the spill. Some of that information already has been released. Are there other items that are being held back pending the investigation by IG, Interior? When are those expected to be released?

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Beyond abandoned mines, there have already been attempts to link this accident to other matters before the EPA, from the Clean Power Plan to the waters of the US rule; can you comment on whether there's any relation to those and the Gold King spill?

Thanks Nancy-Understood if we can't get to all of those during interview but would hope to hit major themes.

Matt Brown



Matthew Brown

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